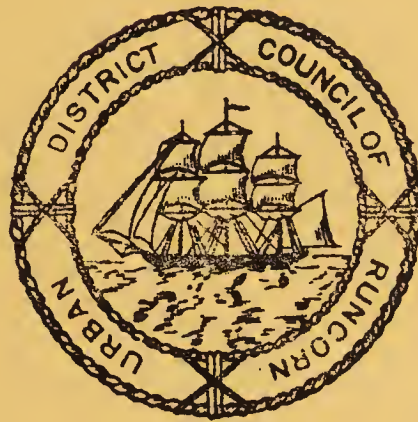


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RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year ending 31st December, 1956



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URBAN DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

1956

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Officials of the Public Health Department :

- (1) *Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts*
- (2) *Divisional Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer (Runcorn Division)*

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspectors:

**Chief:* Mr. ALLEN DALE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

**Additional:* Mr. ALBERT DUCKWORTH, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

Additional: Mr. W. P. MOSS, M.A.P.H.I., Cert.R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

(★ *Also appointed Shops Inspector.*)

Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR S. HOLT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR T. B. SHALLCROSS

COUNTY ALDERMAN W. GITTINS, J.P.

COUNCILLOR C. L. COHEN

- „ H. GOODALL (Chairman of the Public Health Committee)
- „ C. J. HELSBY
- „ W. S. HUXTABLE
- „ J. HENDERSON
- „ Miss D. HORSEFIELD
- „ E. G. JONES
- „ T. H. LEATHER
- „ T. J. LLOYD
- „ D. McCULLOCH, D.C.M.
- „ C. C. POSNETT
- „ J. G. POTTS
- „ Miss M. J. PREECE, B.A., C.C.
- „ J. REDICAN
- „ J. TILDSLEY, J.P.
- „ A. WOOD
- „ G. WRIGHT, J.P.

Officers:

Solicitor-Clerk of the Council: Mr. T. J. LEWIS

Engineer and Surveyor: Mr. H. A. HUMPHERY, M.I.Mun.E.

Treasurer: Mr. C. NORMAN GREEN

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INTRODUCTION

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you this my 19th Annual Report for the year-ending 31st December, 1956.

Population: There is an increase of 430 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population from 25,030 in 1955 to 25,460 in 1956.

Birth Rate: The Birth Rate per thousand of the population showed a slight increase being 18.2 in 1956 by comparison with 17.6 in 1955.

Death Rate: The Death Rate for 1956 was 11.1 per thousand of the population compared with 8.74 in 1955. The total number of deaths in the Runcorn Urban District in 1956 was 285 compared with 244 in 1955. Your special attention is drawn to the detailed table on page 36 which gives the deaths from various diseases (e.g., Coronary thrombosis, &c.), shown in age groups and sex.

Infantile Mortality Rate: The death rate of all infants under one year of age per thousand of live births was 36.6 (17 deaths) in 1956 as compared with 45.3 (20 deaths) in 1955. (See Page 14)

Incidence of Infectious Disease: The incidence of infectious disease was more than the previous year; 461 cases were notified as compared with 272 during 1955. The increase was mainly due to the incidence of Measles (258) and Whooping Cough (150).

Tuberculosis: Though the rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis remains relatively high, the remarkable reduction in Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (1938—89, 1956—24), is to be noted with satisfaction. Clean and pure heat-treated milk are especially the cause of this. The fight against Pulmonary Tuberculosis continues *vide* my remarks in this report on the subject; in addition the full application of the New Clean Air Act, aided by the various sections of the Public Health Act.

“THE COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE”

Immediately following this Introduction are my “Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease”, which I strongly recommend should be read and carried out by all concerned.

Housing: The number of applications for Council houses was 524 at the end of the year under review.

The number of houses owned by the Council at end of year was 1,929; total number of new houses erected by the Council during the year was 147. The total number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1956, was 8,145.

My Council are paying special attention to the removal as priority cases expectant mothers and families with young children from slum property; this is one way we will still further be able to reduce the high infantile mortality rate (N.B., Ante-natal Care, &c.). Slum Clearance Schemes (5 & 10 years programmes) are being dealt with as a priority.

Ventilation and Heating of Houses, &c.: From time to time I have stressed the need for a more commonsense approach to this matter in this country. In a letter dated 8th February to the local Press, &c., I stated as follows:—

“The question of ventilation and heating in the British Isles requires **urgent** investigation in that sometimes through sheer lack of thought, draughty, cold houses are experienced (and so ‘colds’, &c.), when with the use of some *commonsense* proper ventilation and heating would be available—and so better health.”

(N.B.) *Ventilation:* This means movement of air without draughts; windows and doors should be made draught-proof and a simple and proper system of *controlled ventilation* arranged; for this ask an expert, e.g., a ventilation/heating engineer, your local surveyor or Public Health Inspector.

Heating: This must be adequate, not too much or insufficient, many rooms and corridors, especially in large houses require a *minimum of central heating*, e.g., a hot pipe running through them; this may be added to by ordinary coal fires (preferably smokeless), electric or gas fires in certain rooms; again ask experts as suggested under ventilation above. *Do not forget the bathroom.*

General: Much ill-health can be prevented if more *commonsense* was used in these important matters. A room thermometer is useful in seeing these are kept at the right *temperature and humidity*. If in doubt ask an expert as suggested above; the cost will *not* be much, balancing this *better health will be the result* for ourselves and visitors from overseas.

N.B.: The policy of placing heating at nearly roof level is wrong and may cause various diseases (e.g., head and shoulders hot—feet cold). The appropriate Ministry, &c., should enquire into this important matter again.

Flies: As stated in my Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease:—

(a) **FLIES:** Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., **in which flies breed** must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and **well covering** these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **must** be fly proof. Food **must** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **must** be used to **cover** contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies **carry** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

We are not sufficiently "**FLY CONSCIOUS**"—every effort *must* be made to cure this and so help to prevent many intestinal diseases including Poliomyelitis, Enteritis, Typhoid and Food Poisoning.

Cleanliness of HANDS AND NAILS: My remarks above about *Flies* should be read in conjunction with this in my Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease . . . it is stated:—

CLEANLINESS. (a) This **must** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This **also** applies to feeding bottles and teats.) **WHY?** Where these are **absolutely** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **must** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or **under the nails** and so spread disease germs to food; **always** thoroughly wash the hands **and clean under the nails** after using the lavatory.

We must **NOT** be prudish about this, for the facts are the germs of Poliomyelitis, Typhoid, &c., may be in the bowels and when we use the lavatory, our hands and nails may become infected—so it is *essential* to *thoroughly* wash and clean these after using the lavatory—as mentioned above under "**FLIES**"; if this was drilled into schoolchildren (at school and at home) and all other diseases, as mentioned under *Flies* above (with the aid of protective immunisation) would be eventually wiped out (using also vaccination, &c., against various diseases).

Disease Spread from Animals to Humans: It is good to note that Medical and Veterinary Research workers, &c., are co-operating more and more in this important matter. Tropical Diseases have been cut to a minimum all over the world by this method of spread of disease being recognised and dealt with.

Vaccination and Immunisation: It is understood that in the near future one vaccine may be available (for babies—then a booster dose later) to include in this prevention against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and possibly Measles—this will be an efficient way which will prevent the many injections to children as given today.

Important—

(i) *Allergic Diseases*: As quoted in my Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease—in a large percentage of cases can be cured—the diseases for example, Migraine, Hayfever, Asthma, some types of Eczema (especially in children) due to allergy, cause much unnecessary suffering; by seeing a Doctor (tests, &c.) many of these can be cured or relieved; this also applies to contact “Dermatitis”.

(ii) *The Menopause* (change of life in women and men)!! This is a *natural* sequence of events in anyone’s life and must be “faced up to”—it can affect persons in varying degrees, sometimes not at all. I *must* stress that, for example, in the case of women, treatment by e.g. “T.A.C.E.” (*special* gland extract treatment) via your own Doctor and/or a Specialist, can cure most cases. If in doubt it is your duty to yourself and all concerned, to consult those as stated above.

Finally may I quote a summary of a lecture (also gramophone and tape recorded) on “Health and the Joy of Life”:—

1. Develop proper contacts every day so that they will “switch on” and give you the right knowledge and stimulus to live; so developing your mental, physical and spiritual life together. At all ages develop the “Outward Bound” spirit.

2. Look after the three “T’s”—Tonsils, Teeth and Tummy. See your Doctor and Dentist when you need to, but whether fit or not be examined by your Doctor at least once a year and your Dentist every six months.

3. Eat proper food daily, a varied diet cooked properly, and include in it the preventive foods—those which prevent disease—Milk, Eggs, Fresh Vegetables (both cooked and in salads), Fruit, Animal Fat and Fish, especially Herrings. Do not forget the importance of flavour in your cooking, use e.g., onions, leeks and all the herbs.

4. If in doubt as to the purity of water, or if milk is not pasteurised, boil them.

5. Be clean—use soap and more “*elbow grease*”.

6. If you want to know of any contact, that is, to commence any organisations in your district, write to your Medical Officer of Health.

7. Study the books on Hygiene by the Red Cross and St. John Societies. Listen to the Radio Doctor and study *his* books.

8. *Finally, with the team spirit fully developed in you, work hard, play hard and learn to relax.* You will then have gained something towards enjoying “*Health and the Joy of Life*”.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA:

The details under this Section have been compiled by Mr. Allen Dale, M.R.S.H., Chief Public Health Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT—DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year-ending 31st December, 1956

(by agreement with the Cheshire County Council and my local Council)—this report is included as an Appendix “A” and attached hereto.

Over a period of nearly 20 years the co-operation and help of *all* concerned outside my offices, in the Public Health Department and other departments has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

Yours obediently,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,

L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Brunswick Hall,
Brunswick Street,
Runcorn.

IMPORTANT

THE COMMON SENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE

- (1) **CLEANLINESS.** (a) This **must** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This also applies to feeding bottles and teats.)

WHY? Where these are **absolutely** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **must** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or **under the nails** and so spread disease germs to food; **always** thoroughly wash the hands **and clean under the nails** after using the lavatory.

- (2) **DESTRUCTION OF FLIES, RATS AND MICE.**

(a) **FLIES:** Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., **in which flies breed** must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and **well covering** these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **must** be fly proof. Food **must** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **must** be used to **cover** contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies **carry** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

(b) **RATS AND MICE:** For the destruction of these ask your chemist; failing this your Public Health Inspector (who is also the Rodent Officer).

WHY? Rats and mice breed in all kinds of dirt, and like flies carry disease germs to food (and water).

- (3) **FOOD** should be **properly** heat treated; this applies especially to the manufacture of ice cream, the cooking of shell-fish, and the pasteurisation and sterilization of milk. Where milk is not pasteurised or sterilized I recommend that this is boiled at home.

WHY? By proper heat treatment, any disease germs present are destroyed. This applies to all kinds of food, including ice cream, shell-fish and milk.

- (4) **WATERCRESS** must be obtained from properly controlled beds, that is, where pure water is supplied; **this with lettuce and fruits** without a fairly thick outside coat, should be thoroughly washed in a weak Condyl's solution and then rinsed with pure water before being eaten.

WHY? Watercress can carry disease germs on it; this also applies to lettuce and fruit.

- (5) DRIED EGGS AND DRIED MILK must be kept in a cool place, and when the package is opened it should be used up quickly.

WHY? These are good foods, but if the containers are left open to the air too long (e.g., over two days) germs can grow in them and so spread disease.

- (6) ALL WATER FOR DRINKING, DIETETIC OR DAIRY PURPOSES should be from a pure supply; if in doubt as to its purity, boil it well for small quantities, or chlorinate it for large quantities—see instructions on bottles obtainable from most chemists. **Do not bathe in rivers, etc.,** which may be sewage polluted.

WHY? Water, if impure, can have disease germs in it; boiling or chlorination kills disease germs. If you bathe in rivers, canals, etc., which may be sewage polluted, you may swallow disease germs.

- (7) CONSTIPATION. This *must* be avoided, for example, by eating sufficient roughage food, e.g., whole-meal bread and vegetables also by keeping the stomach muscles strong and healthy by games and P.T. exercises. If in doubt see your own doctor. Many diseases might be traced to chronic constipation.

WHY? If constipated, foul matter remains too long in the lower bowel so poisoning the blood and also holding disease germs in the bowel which may infect the body.

- (8) (a) TO AVOID SPREADING “COLDS IN THE HEAD”, INFLUENZA, etc. Use a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.

WHY? A handkerchief acts as a screen and so catches disease germs from the nose and throat. Disinfect and boil handkerchiefs well prior to washing. Wet feet, wet clothes, and draughts cause chilling of the body and so render it more liable to disease.

(b) COVERING UP THE MOUTH WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING. Coughing or sneezing on *food*, for example, after influenza, etc., may cause a serious attack of e.g., enteritis, diarrhoea, etc., especially in babies and young children.

WHY? Because germs causing *serious* disease enter on or into food . . . DO NOT COUGH OR SNEEZE onto food: cover the mouth and nose with a handkerchief or etc., See your own doctor as required for treatment.

- (9) ALLERGIC DISEASES. The diseases for example, Migraine, Hayfever, Asthma, some types of Eczema (especially in children) due to allergy, cause much *unnecessary* suffering; by seeing a Doctor (tests, etc.) many of these can be cured or relieved; this also applies to contact “Dermatitis”.

- 10) PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, SMALL-POX, etc. See that all (especially young children) have these as required.

WHY? By these injections the body is more fully protected against dangerous diseases. If in doubt ask your own doctor, Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

- (11) **PROPER DISINFECTION OF HOUSES**, etc. After any serious disease in a house, etc., see that this is carried out (ask your Public Health Department, Sanitary Inspector), **also a thorough** "spring-cleaning". The latter would be sufficient in less serious diseases such as Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough.

WHY? By this, disease germs are destroyed or washed away and so cannot infect others.

- (12) **ISOLATION OF CONTACTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE**. Carry out thoroughly what is recommended on the special pamphlet issued by the Medical Officer of Health when patients are sent to hospital or nursed at home.

WHY? By so doing disease germs are less likely to spread. If in doubt ask your own doctor or Public Health Department (e.g., your Public Health Inspector). This also applies to any sick animals (indoors or outdoors); in doubt call in a Veterinary Officer.

- (13) **DEFECTIVE TEETH**. See your dentist if your teeth are bad or septic; better still see him as a routine every six months.

WHY? If your teeth are bad or septic the chewing powers are not good and so all kinds of indigestion may arise. Septic teeth (and gums) lead to poisoning of the blood and so to various diseases.

- (14) **THE PREVENTIVE FOODS**. Eat some of these daily in your daily diet which **must** be properly cooked, varied **and** flavoured.

WHY? The preventive foods (i.e., those which help the body to prevent disease) are:—

Milk and eggs (dried or ordinary);

Cheese;

Fresh vegetables and fruit (cooked or in salads);

Animal fats, e.g., fish (especially herrings), and butter;

Margarine (vitaminised);

Whole meal bread;

These all contain valuable substances called **VITAMINS** which are *essential* to good health. Where these essential foods are in short supply, etc., all concerned are reminded that extracts of these vitamins are contained in e.g., Rose Hip Juice and/or Ribena, Marmite, Yeast, certain tablets (all vitamins). *Parents are recommended to bottle or preserve fruit when it is cheap.*

- (15) **OBESITY (over-weight)**: How can this be the cause of many serious diseases and can shorten life . . . ?

WHY? By "clogging-up" of the blood vessels, the various organs of the body, disease can commence. By eating less fat and starchy foods at each meal, with more variety and taking, for example, small quantities of milk or sweets between meals, less fat, etc., will enter the body. Moderate, regular daily exercise, e.g., a walk, will help to "burn-up" fat. Guard against constipation. If in doubt see your own doctor.

- (16) RETIREMENT, Semi-RETIREMENT and OLD AGE: (also secondary employment in youth).

Question: What should one do to prepare for these (the proper use of leisure)?

Answer: As early as possible, and as necessary, seek the guidance first of, for example, your Medical Officer of Health, and/or Health Visitor, who will (acting in a "guidance service") refer you to other agencies—official and voluntary.

Remember *Old Age* is a *normal state*, but the diseases associated with it are not; see your own doctor as required, so that not only years can be added to life, but life can be added to years.

Loneliness, boredom and monotony *must* be dealt with by using the brain and body—for example, with hobbies of all kinds, other employment, etc. . . . See your own padre as required.

EVERYDAY is a BIRTHDAY and EVERYDAY we are born anew.

Younger persons working a 4 to 5 day week should in the same way as above, prepare for a new world of *secondary employment* (owing to for example, automation, the atomic age)—for this see your Ministry of Labour—Youth Employment Department, or, as above, your Medical Officer of Health and/or the Health Visitor. Ask your local Education Office, for under the Education Act, 1944, any subject (theory or practice) can be taught to *any* person at a very small cost to the person per week. Finally—EARN HAPPINESS BY GIVING.

GENERAL

- (1) Anyone feeling ill should see their own doctor (better still, as a routine, see him once a year)—though with the above common-sense precautions there should be little danger of contacting or spreading disease.
- (2) ASK FOR MORE OF THESE PAMPHLETS AS REQUIRED FROM YOUR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Have discussion groups, lectures and films on health education. Attend the official classes on personal hygiene given by, e.g., the Red Cross Society, St. John Association, Scouts and Girl Guides—these organisations have excellent little books on the subject. Always carry out these common-sense preventive measures and *tell others about them*.
- (3) Good health mostly depends on YOU—your co-operation is essential.

“WHERE THERE IS DIRT THERE IS DISEASE”

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P.&S., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban & Rural Districts
Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:

1. Brunswick Hall, Brunswick Street, Runcorn.
2. Castle Park, Frodsham.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area of Runcorn Urban District in Acres	....	....	3,116
Population at Census, 1951	....	....	23,933
Registrar- General's Estimates of population at June 30th	....	....	25,460
Density of population (i.e. No. of persons per acre)	....	....	8.1
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1956, according to rate book	....	....	8,145
Rateable value, at 31st December, 1955	....	....	£165,749
Rateable value, at 31st December, 1956	....	....	£286,404
Sum represented by 1d. rate (approx.) 31st December, 1956	....	....	£1,157

Summary of Vital Statistics

Live Births:				1956		1955
Legitimate —Males	....	....	....	233	231	
Females	....	....	....	221	204	
				454		435
Illegitimate—Males	....	....	....	3	5	
Females	....	....	....	7	1	
				10		6
				464		441
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population:				18.2		17.6
Still Births:						
Legitimate —Males	....	....	....	5	4	
Females	....	....	....	7	2	
				12		6
Illegitimate—Males	....	....	....	—	—	—
Females	....	....	....	—	—	—
				12		6
TOTAL						
				12		6
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still-births)				25.3		13.4
Deaths:						
Males	....	....	....	156	127	
Females	....	....	....	129	117	
				285		244
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	....	....	....	11.1		9.74
Infantile Mortality Rate	....	....	....	36.6		45.3
Deaths from Pneumonia per 1,000 home population	....	....	....	0.27		0.67
Deaths from Cancer per 1,000 home population	....	....	....	2.2		2.07
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	....	—		—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)....	....	....	....	—		—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	....	....	....	0.07		—

Comparative Statistics, 1956

Statistics for Runcorn Urban District compared with the average for England and Wales.

						<i>Runcorn Urban District</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Rates per 1,000 Home Population	....	....	....	
Live Births	....	....	....	....	....	18.2	15.7
Deaths—							
All Causes	....	....	....	....	....	11.1	11.7
Tuberculosis....	....	....	....	....	....	0.15	15.6
Rates per 1,000 related live births	....	....	....	
Deaths—							
All cases under 1 year of age	....	....	....			36.6	23.8

Vital Statistics, 1946-1956

<i>Year</i>	<i>Per 1,000 Population</i>		<i>Per 1,000 Live Births</i>	<i>Per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births</i>
	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Live Birth</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>	<i>Still Birth Rate</i>
1946	13.25	20.88	41.75	38.15
1947	12.11	25.5	48.5	21.3
1948	9.74	20.53	20.96	20.53
1949	11.23	17.29	51.09	26.06
1950	10.79	10.5	23.3	29.6
1951	13.34	16.07	31.25	27.85
1952	11.29	15.79	39.57	23.19
1953	9.07	17.57	21.02	20.59
1954	10.29	16.83	37.47	27.97
1955	9.74	17.6	45.3	13.4
1956	11.1	18.2	36.6	25.3

Principal Causes of Death in Order of Frequency

Out of 285 deaths occurring during the year 251 were attributable to the undermentioned principal causes:—

		<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Percentage of deaths from all causes</i>
1	Heart Disease	100	35.08
2	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	39	13.6
3	Cancer	57	20.0
4	Bronchitis	17	5.96
5	Other defined and ill-defined causes....	17	5.96
6	Pneumonia	7	2.45
7	Other Circulatory Diseases	14	4.91

Infants Deaths (Under 1 year), 1956

Certified Causes of Death	Age at Death									Total
	Under 24 hours	Days				Months				
		1- 7	8- 14	15- 21	22- 28	1- 3	3- 6	6- 9	9- 12	
Birth injuries,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Prematurity	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3
Congenital										
Malformations	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	5
Gastroenteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Respiratory failure	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	7	2		1	—	3	2	2	—	17

Infant Mortality

The table of infant deaths shows that 17 children died before reaching the age of 1 year, producing an infant mortality rate of 36.6 compared with 45.3 in the previous year.

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area

1. Public Health Officers

The names, qualifications, of these are given at the beginning of the Report.

2. Facilities

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies, Ltd., is established in Runcorn—where, query Anthrax can be examined and necessary treatment given as required prior to any Hospital treatment.

The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee have informed all general practitioners that they would be responsible for the supply of diphtheria antitoxin (free)—in emergency at the Runcorn Memorial Hospital (Matron). In addition, it can be obtained (in emergency) from any infectious disease hospital, e.g., Warrington and Davenham.

Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case.

Stock held by hospitals or practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply.

In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in diphtheria.

N.B.—Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, in the home or in the hospital. SWABBING IS ONLY AN AID TO DIAGNOSIS.

Swabs &c., are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, 42 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead and the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, in addition as required, the laboratories at Chester and Warrington (free of charge).

N.B.—This applies to all examinations carried out in the interests of Public Health. The facilities available (free of charge) might be made more use of.

Milk specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead; they may be sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

N.B.—The Public Health Laboratory, Manchester and Birkenhead, also the laboratories at the Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmaries, are available to examine and report on specimen swabs, etc., in the interests of preventive medicine.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances

1. (i) WATER. The water supply consists of a mixture of soft water from Lake Vyrnwy and hard Runcorn Well water.

Frequent tests are made of the water by the Council, and during the year 5 tests of Vyrnwy and 6 of mixed water were made, and 38 tests of Well water (which is under constant supervision).

The Report of the Analyst is : “That the water generally is free from organic pollution and is suitable for drinking purposes.”

(ii) Ministry of Health Circular 42/51 requires the following information regarding water supplies in the area:—

(i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory :—

- (a) In quality Yes
- (b) In quantity Yes

(ii) Where there is a piped supply whether bacteriological examinations were made of (i) the raw water and (ii) where treatment is installed, of water going into supply ; if so

- (a) How many ?.... Yes (i) 9 ; (ii) 30
- (b) The results obtained. Number of coliform organisms per 100 mls. Satisfactory
- (c) The results of any chemical analysis Satisfactory

- (iii) Where the waters are liable to have plumbo solvent action the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and result of analyses :—

Report of Analyst does not indicate plumbo solvent action in any of the testings made.

- (iv) Action in respect of any form of contamination :—
None.

- (v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains :—

(a) Direct to the houses	....	....	8,145
(b) By means of stand pipes	....	....	Nil

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE: Most of the sewers empty into one large intercepting sewer which passes under the Manchester Ship Canal at No Man's Land, and another sewer dips under the Ship Canal at the westerly boundary of the District and is discharged similarly into the Mersey estuary.

Action to improve sewage disposal is under consideration; suitable action is required *as soon as possible*.

(3) PUBLIC CLEANSING: The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority over the whole of the district and disposal is by controlled tipping in a disused quarry. The refuse is tipped in layers and covered each day with soil available on the site; a mechanical shovel is used for the purpose.

In order to prevent nuisance from insects, the refuse tip is sprayed from time to time with a reliable insecticide.

(4) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Inspections made for all purposes	....	4,059
Nuisances dealt with	....	326
Notices served (Informal)	....	168

Summary of Visits and Inspections

FOOD PREMISES:					
Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	36
Cafes, Canteens, Restaurants	....	....	....	....	51
Dairies and Milk Shops	....	....	....	....	27
Food Shops	....	....	....	....	257
Hawkers	....	....	....	....	8
Ice-Cream premises	....	....	....	....	10
Public Market	....	....	....	....	17
Public Slaughterhouse	....	....	....	....	353
School Canteens	....	....	....	....	13
FACTORIES:					
Factories and Workplaces	....	....	....	....	80
Offices	....	....	....	....	4
HOUSING:					
Canal Boats	....	....	....	....	50
Common Lodging House	....	....	....	....	18
Complaints	....	....	....	....	421
House Inspections & Enquiries	....	....	....	....	346
Infectious Disease Enquiries	....	....	....	....	88
Miscellaneous Visits	....	....	....	....	264
Nuisance Abatement	....	....	....	....	577
Owners/Agents Interviewed	....	....	....	....	179
HYGIENE:					
Hairdressers	....	....	....	....	8
Licensed Premises	....	....	....	....	8
Music Hall and Theatres	....	....	....	....	28
Shops (other than food)	....	....	....	....	16
SANITATION:					
Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke					
Abatement	....	....	....	....	109
Disinfections	....	....	....	....	12
Drainage	....	....	....	....	93
Marine Merchants	....	....	....	....	5
Manure Middens	....	....	....	....	15
Piggeries	....	....	....	....	17
Public Baths	....	....	....	....	16
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	....	77
Refuse Removal and Disposal	....	....	....	....	226
Rodent Control	....	....	....	....	156
Salvage Collection	....	....	....	....	170
School Conveniences	....	....	....	....	18
Tents, Vans, &c.	....	....	....	....	10
Wasteland	....	....	....	....	12
TESTINGS:					
Water (Domestic & Bacteriological)	....	....	....	....	49
Water Baths "chemical"	....	....	....	....	48
Milk	....	....	....	....	110
Ice-cream and lollies	....	....	....	....	50
Soil Research	....	....	....	....	7
TOTAL					4059

(5) **Shops**

The various classes of shops in the district of the Local Authority have from time to time been visited.

The provision of the Shops Act relating to closing hours and the Employment of Young Persons are generally observed, also the provisions of the Act in relation to lighting, heating and ventilation.

(6) **Atmospheric Pollution and Smoke Abatement**

For the purpose of recording solid matter and sulphur present in the atmosphere, three stations are in operation consisting of deposit gauges and lead peroxide apparatus. The latter gauges and apparatus are situated at:—

Beacon Hill Reservoir Runcorn Golf Course Highfield Tannery

The residue is collected on the 1st of the month or as near as possible for analytical examination.

Measurements of Deposited Matter with the Deposit Gauge

The amount of total solids in tons per square mile, and the average rainfall during the year 1956 was as stated below:—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Beacon Hill Reservoir</i>	<i>Runcorn Golf Course</i>	<i>Highfield Tannery</i>	<i>Average Rainfall inches</i>
January 	21.43	30.10	21.81	3.55
February 	14.13	10.10	14.41	.34
March 	19.19	19.50	18.64	1.38
April 	15.63	15.60	18.75	2.27
May 	20.04	16.65	19.64	.78
June 	20.61	21.19	20.67	2.17
July 	19.79	16.71	14.68	3.97
August 	29.27	27.23	25.33	7.28
September 	15.32	15.32	9.17	2.06
October 	24.16	19.30	17.69	2.25
November 	15.84	18.80	13.81	1.27
December 	27.23	17.03	17.70	2.31
Monthly Average 	20.20	18.96	17.68	2.47

Annual Rainfall: 29.63 inches

Measurement of Sulphur Dioxide with the Lead Peroxide Apparatus

The measurement in milligrams of SO₃ per day per 100 square

centimetres of lead peroxide during the year 1956 was as follows:—

<i>Month</i>	<i>Beacon Hill Reservoir</i>	<i>Runcorn Golf Course</i>	<i>Highfield Tannery</i>
January	2.60	2.23	2.56
February	2.62	2.53	2.71
March	2.41	1.15	2.44
April	2.82	1.76	2.93
May	2.13	1.23	2.34
June	2.32	1.61	2.48
July	2.34	1.82	2.56
August	2.18	1.47	1.99
September	2.59	1.08	2.20
October	2.56	2.24	2.76
November	2.67	1.52	2.78
December	2.47	1.65	2.46
Monthly Average ...	2.47	1.67	2.51

Industrial Deposits

Considerable discomfort has been caused to the general public by the emission of deposits in the atmosphere which has caused and still causes grave anxiety to the Council. Efforts have been made and representations put forward with the object of alleviating the discomfort and abating a nuisance. The Alkali Inspector has investigated the matter and submitted his report on the instructions of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The nuisance should be abated at a very early date in the interests of all concerned.

(7) Swimming Baths

The Urban District Council maintains a Swimming Bath which is supplied with water from the Town's mains and passed through a filtration plant charged with chlorine. It is tested for its purity and chlorine content at least twice a month during the season, and its physical characteristics are satisfactory. Daily checks are made for chlorine content by the Bath's Superintendent.

Forty-eight samples of Bath's water were tested, and the Analyst reported on the fluctuations of the composition of the water at various times, e.g., when the load was heavier and the temperature consequently higher. Attention was immediately given to any adverse report and the process of chlorination adjusted as required.

(8) Eradication of Vermin

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradication of vermin:—

		<i>Infested and Disinfested</i>			Total
		Bed Bugs	Cock-roaches	Ants	
1.	(a) No. of Council Houses	1	—	5	6
	(b) No. of other Houses	3	2	3	8

(9) Schools

Periodic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at schools and for this purpose 18 visits were made during 1956. Whilst certain improvements have been made, others are necessary and are receiving consideration by School Management Committees.

The serving of school meals necessitates the provision of Canteen accommodation; the latter have been kept under observation on hygienic grounds and at the request of the County Director of Education, smoke fumigation has been carried out at each school on three occasions, and for this purpose 35 visits were made.

(10) Rodent Control

During the year the administration of the “Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949” has led to many visits and treatments of dwellings and business premises being carried out. The number of premises inspected was 321.

Treatment of infestation at private dwellings is carried out free of charge but a charge is made for rodent control work in connection with trade premises and land.

During the year 1956 disinfestations were dealt with at 179 premises; 958 visits in all were made; 616 rats and 485 mice were accounted for.

The disinfestations dealt with consisted of: Business premises 80; Private Dwellings 92; Council Premises 7.

Sewer treatment was carried out in the months of July and December with satisfactory results.

(11) FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	22	15	—	—	1
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	84	65	—	—	2
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL		106	80	—	—	

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
(a) insufficient	10	3	3	-	1	-	10
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	-	-	-	-	-	11
(c) not separate for sexes	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	60	3	3	-	1	-	60
TOTAL							

Number on Outworkers Lists : 8.

SECTION D

(1) Housing

Number of inhabited houses in Urban District, 31st December, 1956	....	....	....	....	....	....	8,145
Density of houses (number of houses per acre)	....	....					2.6
Number of houses (new) erected during 1956							
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	....	147
By other bodies or persons	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
Number of houses owned by Local Authority							
						permanent 1,839	
						prefab 80	
						General Fund 10	1,929

(2) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR

The number of Canal Boats passing through the Urban District of Runcorn has greatly diminished during the year 1956 and those which have been met from time to time were actually narrow boats making weekly visits—the same boats being met each time. In consequence fewer inspections of individual boats have been recorded.

I have to report the inspection of 50 Canal Boats, all of which were well kept and which, with the exception of the undermentioned contraventions were found to be in good condition:—

Certificates of Registration	....	....	....	6
Painting of name	....	....	....	2
Leaking side of cabin	....	....	....	1
Defective locker	....	....	....	1

Total	10
-------	------	------	------	----

Notices were served on the persons concerned, and where the contraventions have not already been rectified, the more recent ones are receiving attention.

The population of the Canal Boats referred to consisted of: Men 34, Women 27, Children 33. The age group of the children is herewith indicated:—

Age:	Babies	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
No.:	3	1	4	1	1	1	0	0	3	6	4	3	6	33

There was no case of infection reported on a Canal Boat during the year.

There have been no new registrations or cancellations of Canal Boats of any description during 1956, and although there are still 335 Canal Boats on the Register, it may be assumed that many of these are not in actual commission.

It may well be that with the present transport difficulties more use will be made of the waterways system, involving the use of more Canal Boats provided the requisite manning of the same can be achieved.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) (i) Milk Supply

There are six dairy farms in the area of the Urban District, all of which are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and 61 distributors of milk on the register of the Local Authority.

One dairy in the area is licensed for the Pasteurisation of milk in the High Temperature Short Time System.

(ii) Milk Testing

During the year under review 110 samples of milk were submitted for analytical report to the Public Health Laboratory at Birkenhead.

12 samples of milk delivered to the schools in the area were tested, and 1 sample failed the Methylene Blue Test.

Of the remaining 98 testings 1 failed the Methylene Blue; suitable action was taken in these cases and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

The following table indicates the Reports of the Analyst of testings made during the year 1956.

Sampling for Cleanliness and Efficiency of Heat Treatment

Class of Milk	No. of Samples	Appropriate Tests	No. of Samples	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	52	Phosphatase	52	—
		Methylene Blue ($\frac{1}{2}$ hour test)	50	2
Sterilised	26	Turbidity Test	26	—
Tuberculin tested Pasteurised	22	Phosphatase	22	—
		Methylene Blue	22	—
Tuberculin tested	10	Methylene Blue	10	—

(b) Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The number of licences granted under the above Regulations was 92, viz:—

Tuberculin Tested	....	....	Retailers Licence	....	11
			Supplementary Licence	....	2
Pasteurised Milk	....	....	Retailers Licence	....	18
			Supplementary Licence	....	2
Sterilised Milk	....	....	Retailers Licence	....	59

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955. FOOD PREMISES IN AREA

Type	No in area	No registered under Sect 16 F & D Act, 1955	No of visits
Grocery and General Stores	94	—	102
Greengrocery	13	—	10
Butchers	24	16	51
Fish and Chips	16	16	30
Wet Fish	12	—	14
Cooked Meats	6	6	20
Cafes, Canteens, etc	19	—	51
Licensed Premises	40	—	10
Bakehouses	13	—	36
Sweets	32	—	20
Total	269	—	344

No special educational activity was undertaken such as Clean Food Guilds, or Lectures on Food Hygiene, but advice is given in the course of inspections.

(b) Ice-cream Testings

Forty samples of ice-cream and ten samples of ice-lollies were submitted to the Analyst for report, and the table herewith given indicates the substance of the same:—

Testings of ice-cream	....	....	Satisfactory	....	....	40
			Not Satisfactory	....	....	—
Testings of ice-lollies	....	....	Satisfactory	....	....	10
			Not Satisfactory	....	....	—

(c) Ice-cream

Inspections were regularly made of premises where ice-cream is manufactured, also from which it is retailed. There are 106 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and one for the manufacture of it. No serious contraventions were found therein.

(d) Unsound Food

Under the “Unsound Food Provisions,” the undermentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for consumption on shop premises, and were condemned:—

Cheese	....	....	....	....	38 lbs.
Fish (tinned)	....	....	....	....	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Fruit (tinned)	....	....	....	....	80 lbs.
Meat (home killed)	....	....	....	....	90 lbs.
Meat (tinned)	....	....	....	....	598 lbs.
Milk	....	....	....	....	3 pints
Mixed vegetables (tinned)	....	....	....	....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Poultry	....	....	....	....	10 lbs.
Preserves	....	....	....	....	2 lbs.

(2) (a) Slaughterhouse

The slaughtering of animals is carried out at the Councils Slaughterhouse in Percival Lane by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation, Limited. The Council’s Meat Inspectors attend whenever slaughtering is in operation to ensure that hygienic methods are operated at every stage of the dressing of carcasses.

(b) Slaughtering of Animals Act

The provisions of the above Act are stringently enforced and all persons engaged in the slaughter of animals are licensed for that purpose. During the year seven applications for the renewal of licenses were approved.

(c) Meat Regulations

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are observed satisfactorily; no legal proceedings on account of contravention have been necessary.

The transport of meat is carried out in a number of instances by individual butchers themselves, or otherwise is effected by means of other suitable transport.

In this direction the provisions of the Act are satisfactorily maintained.

(3) Meat Inspection

The inspection of all animals killed is carried out by fully qualified inspectors.

Daily visits are made to the Public Slaughterhouse and no meat or edible offal is allowed to pass out until the decision of the inspector has been given.

Three hundred and fifty-three visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection during the year 1956 and 9,160 animals were dealt with during the year. Meat condemned is stained green prior to removal to processing plants for conversion into animal food and fertilisers.

(a) TABLE OF ANIMALS KILLED AND INSPECTED

Bulls	....	....	....	....	....	1
Bullocks	....	....	....	....	....	694
Cows	....	....	....	....	....	681
Heifers	....	....	....	....	....	665
Calves	....	....	....	....	....	21
Sheep and Lambs	....	....	....	....	....	6238
Pigs	....	....	....	....	....	860
TOTAL					....	9160

(b) MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED

The amount of meat and edible offals condemned was:—

For tuberculosis	....	....	....	7 tons 2 cwts. 3 qrs. 16 lbs.
For other causes	....	....	....	6 tons 3 cwts. 1 qr. 5 lbs.

TOTAL: 13 tons 6 cwts. 0 qrs. 21 lbs.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	<i>Cattle exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known)	1360	681	21	6238	860	Nil
Number inspected	1360	681	21	6238	860	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	1	2	3	8	4	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	360	172	Nil	270	40	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis and cysti- cerci	26.4%	25.2%	14.3%	4.3%	4.6%	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	3	9	1	—	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	58	151	—	—	14	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuber- culosis	4.2%	23.6%	4.6%	—	1.6%	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	—	—	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by re- frigeration	1	—	—	—	—	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	Nil

A. Dale, Chief Public Health Inspector.

(4) **Adulteration, etc.**

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act during the year, 1956:—

Samples obtained during the year ended 31st December 1956

<i>Name of Sample</i>	<i>Number obtained</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality</i>
Asprin Tablets	1	
Beans in Tomato Sauce—tinned	1	
Butter	1	
Camphorated Oil	1	
Castor Oil	1	
Cheese—Cheshire	1	
Chicken Paste	1	
Coffee and Chicory Essence	1	
Crab—tinned	1	
Fish Paste	1	
Fish Cakes	1	
Flour, Self-Raising	1	
Glycerine	1	
Jam, Raspberry	1	
Jellies, Table	1	
Lard	1	
Lemon Curd	1	
Liquid Paraffin	1	
Margarine	1	
Mayonnaise	1	
Meat Paste	1	
Meat, Potted	1	
Milk, Condensed Special F.C.	1	
Milk	40	
Mustard	1	
Orangeade	1	
Pickles, Mixed	1	
Pressed Beef	1	
Saccharin Tablets	1	
Tomato Sauce	1	
Tomato Piquant	1	
Whiskey	4	
	75	Nil

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to Measles (258) and Whooping Cough (150).

(1) Research

When further research reveals more about the virus causing, e.g., Measles, a sound curative serum could be made when the disease could be controlled and eventually wiped out.

Combined Diphtheria-Whooping Cough Tetanus vaccine can now be given to infants at an early age (approx. 3 months), the results so far have been very good. This can be obtained free of charge from the patient's own Doctor; *I strongly recommend this.*

Further research is required into the "carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., Diphtheria Immunisation, Smallpox vaccination, inoculation against Typhoid Fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential. (See remarks in Divisional Health Report, reference B.C.G.)

(2) Diphtheria Immunisation

The *free scheme* is still available so that parents and guardians could have their children *properly* immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age (*preferably* during the first year) should be properly immunised against Diphtheria by two injections; in addition a "booster" dose (one) is required in five years time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the parents' or guardians' own Doctor in the surgery; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special Clinics are organised at schools as required. Applications should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools, or to the Public Health Department (Divisional).

Propaganda on the above has been *continuously* carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, &c., but still some children are found to have not been immunised.

Parents or Guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once.

"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."

(3) Prevention of Disease from Abroad

The Government, under the appropriate Acts, have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious diseases have occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival, and he arranges for the necessary supervision.

(4) Vaccination against Smallpox

It is strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own Doctor.

(5) Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

(6) Cancer

Under Section 76 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Sections 1, 2 and 6 and sub-sections (2) and (3) of Section 8 of the Cancer Act, 1939, were repealed and the responsibility for the provision of an adequate Cancer Service was placed on the Minister and Regional Hospital Boards by Part II of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment are available in all major general hospitals in the area and the radiotherapeutic work of the region is centred at the Liverpool Radium Institute. Follow-up clinics are undertaken at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

The area of the Runcorn Rural District Council and the Runcorn Urban District Council are within the area of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

(7) Cancer Research

The Department is still co-operating in the survey being carried out under the auspices of Dr. Percy Stocks, lately Chief Medical Statistician, General Register Office, into recent cancer deaths on Merseyside. Investigations into cancer deaths, i.e., analytical research is being carried out in conjunction with the Department of Agricultural Chemistry (B.E.C.C.), Memorial Buildings, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Caernarvonshire.

During the year there were 57 deaths recorded from cancer as compared with 52 in 1955. These figures were equivalent to 2.23 and 2.07 per 1,000 of the population respectively.

(8) **Details of Cancer Deaths Over The Past Five Years**

Year	Site	1-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75 and over	Rate per 1,000 population	Total all ages	
								M.	F.
1952	Stomach	—	1	6	5	—	1.83	5	7
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	—	1	3	—		4	—
	Other Sites	—	—	16	12	—		11	17
1953	Stomach	—	—	4	4	—	1.39	5	3
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	—	4	2	—		5	1
	Other Sites	—	4	9	7	—		8	12
1954	Stomach	—	—	2	5	—	1.65	5	2
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	—	5	7	—		12	—
	Other Sites	—	1	3	10	8		7	15
1955	Stomach	—	—	5	2	4	2.07	6	5
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	1	5	2	3		11	—
	Other Sites	—	1	10	13	6		8	22
1956	Stomach	—	1	2	7	2	2.23	4	8
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	2	3	8	2		14	1
	Other Sites	—	—	12	12	6		17	13

(9) **Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases. 1956**
(corrected Notifications)

Disease	Age Groups of Cases Notified									Total
	Un-der 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever 	—	4	11	29	3	—	—	—	—	47
Whooping Cough	13	19	33	84	1	—	—	—	—	150
Measles 	6	38	70	141	1	2	—	—	—	258
Pneumonia 	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	4
Erysipelas 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis 	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS 	19	61	114	254	5	3	1	2	2	461

The most prevalent diseases were Measles and Whooping Cough. Tuberculosis notifications are given in a separate section of the report.

During the year there was no unusual notification of infectious disease.

(10) TUBERCULOSIS

No person employed in the milk trade was found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted:—

Proper food (see remarks in Appendix A), in addition, early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, thorough disinfection of homes when cases go to hospital separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to me as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories). Close liaison is kept with the Chest Physician. Follow-up of contacts and the patients by the Health Visitor is carried out very thoroughly and action is taken as required by myself and the Chest Physician (Divisional Health). B.C.G. vaccination is required for certain contacts, etc.

In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly heat-treated (e.g., pasteurised or sterilised), failing this, heat-treated in the home. Designated areas should be declared at an early date.

A reduction in cases of non-pulmonary (e.g., glands and joints) tuberculosis has occurred in both my Urban and Rural Districts since proper heat-treatment has become more available.

With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions and food for the people; these will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat-treatment of milk not only kills tubercle bacillus, but other germs causing disease.

A thorough disinfection (steam, etc.) of the house, clothing, etc., with a thorough “spring clean” of the house when a case is admitted to a sanatorium or hospital, is essential. Isolation of contacts (especially children) is most essential, and every endeavour is made to do this. B.C.G. injections are given by the Chest Physician in suitable cases. Chalets and extra beds and bedding are supplied as and when required.

Medical Officers-in-charge of Industrial Hygiene, etc., Factory Inspectors, form a valuable liaison in preventing and ascertaining the cause of tuberculosis (e.g., dust, working conditions, disinfections, cleanliness, etc). The Public Health Act, 1936 Section 287, proves useful to the Medical Officer of Health (and sanitary inspectors) allowing power of entry to any premises for the general purpose of the Act, in conjunction with those concerned.

Ten Years' Table of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis
(a) Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Year	Cases Notified			Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1947	12	9	21	7	0	7
1948	12	4	16	4	2	6
1949	6	2	8	4	5	9
1950	7	9	16	8	0	8
1951	15	8	23	3	1	4
1952	6	2	8	5	0	5
1953	10	8	18	6	1	7
1954	4	1	5	3	0	3
1955	11	4	15	0	1	1
1956	3	1	4	3	1	4
Totals	86	48	134	43	11	54

Ten Years' Table of Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis
(b) Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Year	Cases Notified			Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1947	5	1	6	2	1	3
1948	1	2	3	1	0	1
1949	8	4	12	0	2	2
1950	1	0	1	1	0	1
1951	0	0	0	0	0	0
1952	1	0	1	2	0	2
1953	1	0	1	0	0	0
1954	0	0	0	0	0	0
1955	0	0	0	0	0	0
1956	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	17	7	24	6	3	9

(11)

Causes of Death at different Periods of Life during the year 1956

Cause of Death	AGE GROUP AND SEX												TOTALS ALL AGE GROUPS					
	Under 1 year		1 to 4 years		5 to 14 years		15 to 24 years		25 to 44 years		45 to 64 years		65 to 74 years		75 years and over		M	F
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Tuberculosis: Other forms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria: Meningococcal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infectious and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	7	2	-	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm: Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	8	1	1	-	4	1
Malignant Neoplasm: Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8	-	5	3	2	-	17	1
Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	12	4	-	-	17	22
Coronary Disease Angina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	16	-	4	8	3	-	37	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	1	6	-	5	2
Other Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	5	-	3	2	10	-	10	30
Other Circulatory Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	4	-	6	8
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	-	5	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	-	-	13	2
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy: Childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	3	2	1	-	8	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	6	1
All other Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	4	1
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ALL CAUSES	1	4	-	-	-	1	1	-	17	12	57	55	60	41	20	16	156	129

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1956

By the

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Presented to the
Runcorn Divisional Health Committee
19th March, 1957

MEMBERS OF THE RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. GOODALL

Deputy Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. JACKSON

Representatives of Local Health Authority

County Alderman G. ASTBURY,	Chairman, County Health Committee
„ Councillor A. WHITLEY,	Vice-Chairman, County Health Committee
Alderman W. GITTINS,	
County Councillor H. MANN	
„ „ A. E. MOORS	
„ „ R. E. PAYTON	
„ „ Miss M. J. PREECE	

Runcorn Rural District Council Representatives

Councillor D. L. DAVIES	Councillor J. W. KIRKHAM
„ Mrs. K. I. DEWES	„ T. L. LOOKER
„ Mrs. T. A. GLOVER	„ Mrs. E. STANSFIELD
„ J. HUNT	„ G. S. WALLWORTH

Runcorn Urban District Council Representatives

Councillor C. J. HELSBY	Councillor J. G. POTTS
„ S. HOLT	„ T. B. SHALLCROSS
„ T. H. LEATHER	„ A. WOOD

Co-opted Members

Dr. E. R. CARTER Local Medical Committee for the County Palatine of Chester
Dr. E. WARDLE, National Health Service, Local Dental Committee
Miss T. E. DUDLEY, Cheshire County Nursing Association
Councillor W. S. HUXTABLE, Runcorn Divisional Executive for Education
Councillor W. H. STUBBS, Chester & District Hospital Management Committee
Mrs. C. EVANS
Mrs E. A. ROYLE
Mr J. D. WHITLEY

Officers

Clerk to the Committee: Mr. T. J. Lewis

Divisional Medical Officer: E. N. Hillman Gray, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1956

INTRODUCTION

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present this my Annual Report dealing with those portions of the Sections of Part III of the National Health Act, 1946, for which this Committee is responsible.

As in previous years the report is sub-divided into the various sections of the Act and gives details of the work carried out during the year.

With the exception of the Antrobus Clinic, the Welfare Centres in the Division were well attended and at the Day Nursery there was an increase of 2 in the average daily attendance, as compared with the previous year.

One new selling point for the distribution of Welfare Foods was opened during the year at Appleton.

The ambulance service operated smoothly during the year, and further reductions were made in the number of journeys and the mileage.

Every effort was again made to give publicity to the need for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough.

The scheme for the registration of children for vaccination against Poliomyelitis commenced in March, and 2,718 children were registered in the Division. During the year 303 children received two injections, and 17 one injection.

The scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination was continued during the year, and it is pleasing to note that 80% of parents consented to their children being vaccinated.

The demand on the domestic help service continued to increase, particularly on account of the number of aged persons requiring the services of a domestic help whose need for help continues indefinitely. In view of the demand on the Hospital Authorities for admission of chronic sick patients to hospital, this service is most valuable in helping to look after the old people in their homes for as long as is possible. During part of the year there was a shortage of domestic helps to attend cases, particularly in the Grappenhall area, but during the last few weeks the position improved.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Divisional Health Committee for their support and help to me on all occasions.

The co-operation and assistance of the County Medical Officer and his staff, the Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee, and also the staff in my Divisional Health Office, Matron, Day Nursery (Mrs. E. Jones, S.R.N.), Health Visitors; District Nurses; Midwives, local General Practitioners (Urban and Rural); Dr. L. Hughes, S.A.M.O. (Liverpool Regional Hospital Board); and the Ambulance Supervisor, has been *greatly appreciated* by me in the carrying out of my various duties since the Divisional Scheme came into being in 1948.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

*Divisional Health Office,
36 Halton Road, Runcorn.
March, 1957.*

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY

SECTION 22

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There are eight child Welfare Centres in the Division, three of which are held in County owned premises (Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath) and five of which are held in premises rented by the County Council for the actual Sessions (Antrobus, Grappenhall, Helsby, Kingsley and Weston Point).

The Infant Welfare Centres are as follows:—

Antrobus	Parish Hall	First and Third Wednesdays of each month at 2 p.m.
Frodsham	Welfare Centre, The Rock	Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Grappenhall	Methodist Sunday School	Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Helsby	British Insulated Callenders' Cables Works Recreation Room	Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Kingsley	Hurst Chapel	Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
Runcorn	Welfare Centre Halton Road	Wednesdays 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Stockton Heath	Welfare Centre 65 Whitefield Road	Mondays 2 p.m.
Weston Point	Conservative Hall	First and Third Thursdays of month at 2 p.m.

In view of the continued small attendances at the Antrobus Child Welfare Centre, it was decided by the Committee that the Centre should be closed as from 31st December, 1956.

In addition to Infant Welfare Clinics, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Dental and Minor Ailments Clinics are held at the Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath centres during the month, and at Runcorn, Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics are also held each Thursday at 10 a.m. A Toddlers Clinic on the first Thursday of the month, and Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy Clinics are held during the month. A Speech Therapy Clinic is now held each Thursday at the Stockton Heath Welfare Centre.

A Mobile Physiotherapy Clinic, arranged by the Chester and District Hospital Management Committee, was commenced at the Welfare Centre, Runcorn, on 19th November, 1956. Only patients referred to the Clinic by a Specialist at a Hospital can attend for treatment at this Clinic.

The Committee inspected the Welfare Centres at Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath, and the Day Nursery, Runcorn, on the annual inspection of County owned and rented properties, and attention was given to alterations, repairs and replacements required. Work on the lay-out of the gardens at the Runcorn Welfare Centre was completed during the year.

Day Nursery

There is one Day Nursery in the Division, situated in Okell Street, Runcorn. The Matron and staff have again to be congratulated on their excellent work.

During the year the average daily attendance of the Nursery was 28, an increase of 2 on the previous year.

Attendances at the various clinics held at the Welfare Centres and for the Day Nursery are given in the following tables:

A. MOTHERS' CLINICS

					<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Ante-natal	....	....	....	....	153	630
Post-natal	....	....	....	....	—	—
Dental:—						
Pre-natal	....	....	....	....	21	45
Nursing mothers		....	....	....	64	194
Dentures supplied		....	....	....		44

B. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS

					<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
(i) <i>Infant welfare</i>						
To 1 year	....	....	....	....	693	6707
1 to 2 years		....	....	....	—	1025
2 to 5 years		....	....	....	—	960
(ii) <i>Specialist</i>						
Ophthalmic (under 5)		....	....	....	25	63
Dental treatment (under 5)					54	77

B. (i) Welfare Centres

				<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>		
				<i>0—1</i>	<i>0—1</i>	<i>1—2</i>	<i>2—5</i>
Antrobus	....	....	....	11	81	51	68
Frodsham	....	....	....	82	809	123	161
Grappenhall	....	....	....	115	1349	119	98
Helsby	....	....	....	45	637	141	115
Kingsley	....	....	....	22	180	75	107
Runcorn	....	....	....	243	2082	342	368
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	121	1181	91	34
Weston Point	....	....	....	54	388	83	9
TOTALS	....	....	....	693	6707	1025	960

B. (ii) Ophthalmic Clinics

				<i>New Cases</i>		<i>Total Attendances</i>
Frodsham	4	17
Runcorn	10	25
Stockton Heath	11	21
Totals	25	63

(iii) Day Nursery, Runcorn

				<i>Average No. Attending</i>		<i>Total Attendances</i>
Age 0–2 years	6	1708
2–5 years	22	5367

SALE OF BRANDED WELFARE FOODS — The sale of proprietary brands of Welfare Foods at Antrobus, Kingsley, Runcorn and Weston Point is carried out through my office. During the year the total sales amounted to £668. 10s. 7d.

At the Frodsham, Helsby, Grappenhall and Stockton Heath Clinics, the sale of Welfare Foods is carried out by Voluntary Societies.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS — M.O.F. — During the year one new distribution point was opened in the Division at the following address:—

“Springfield”, Arley Lane, Appleton—on 13th August, 1956.

The following are details of the distribution points and commodities sold during the year.

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Commodities</i>				
	<i>N.D. Milk</i>	<i>Half Cream</i>	<i>Cod Liver Oil</i>	<i>A. & D. Capsules</i>	<i>Orange Juice</i>
Runcorn	11501	402	2449	1034	14870
Alvanley	227	—	51	7	379
Antrobus	58	1	72	23	349
Appleton	280	—	37	11	295
Frodsham	3064	97	628	370	4736
Grappenhall	1016	—	365	162	2578
Halton	244	—	197	31	856
Helsby	862	21	277	154	2419
Kingsley	399	—	126	25	663
Manley	189	—	47	21	280
Moore	547	—	97	24	759
Norley	185	—	81	6	403
Preston Brook	311	—	137	37	547
Stockton Heath	1389	1	418	178	2925
Sutton Weaver	141	—	18	1	150
Thelwall	64	—	35	6	167
Weston	877	—	126	33	904
Weston Point	2214	—	475	144	2531
Whitley	335	—	85	1	430
TOTAL ISSUES:	23903	522	5721	2268	36241
Issues to Institutions	6	NIL	108	NIL	432
TOTALS FOR DIVISION:	23909	522	5829	2268	36673

SECTION 23 — MIDWIFERY

Under this section the Committee are responsible for:—

- (i) Provision, where necessary, of accommodation for midwives and the maintenance, repair and alterations required for such premises.
- (ii) Provision of transport for midwives where necessary in cases of emergency.

Apart from the Midwives residing in No. 10 Stanley Villas No. 30 Heath Road Crescent, Runcorn, and No. 10 Cedar Avenue, Stockton Heath, all other County Midwives in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

During the year the Committee inspected the County owned and rented midwives' property, and repairs requiring attention were dealt with.

Transport and medical requisites were provided as and when required.

The Midwives are doing good work in the homes where home confinements are required.

SECTION 24 — HEALTH VISITING

The Committee are also responsible for housing accommodation for Health Visitors, but with the exception of the Health Visitor who has taken up the accommodation of the first floor flat at No. 10 Stanley Villas, Runcorn, all Health Visitors in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

In view of the development of housing estates taking place in the Appleton and Grappenhall areas of the Division, the Committee asked the County Health Committee to reconsider their decision regarding the appointment of an additional Health Visitor for this district, and I am pleased to report that the County Health Committee agreed to the appointment of an additional Health Visitor, which is urgently required.

The Health Visitors are to be congratulated on their good “all round” work in the homes, Welfare Centres, etc.

SECTION 25 — HOME NURSING

With the exception of the two district nurses in Runcorn and one District Nurse/Midwife at Budworth and Helsby who reside in properties under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility, the remainder now reside in County owned or rented property.

The Committee inspected all County owned or rented property in the Division, and action was taken regarding any alterations, repairs or renewals requiring attention.

The District Nurses provide good service to all in the homes, working in co-operation with the various General Practitioners.

SECTION 26 — VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Every effort has again been made during the year to bring to the notice of parents and guardians the necessity of having their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Publicity has been given to this subject by posters, periodic advertisements in the local Press, and the Health Visitors have discussed the question with mothers when making their home visits. Reminders have also been sent to parents from my office.

Special immunisation sessions were held by me at schools in the Division, 54 children being given primary injections and 261 reinforcing injections.

There was a slight increase in the number of children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against whooping cough, but a very small reduction in the number of children immunised against diphtheria as compared with the previous year.

The figures set out in the following tables, compiled from record cards received from medical practitioners, show the number of vaccinations and immunisations carried out during the year. For comparison purposes, the figures for the previous year are also given.

Vaccination

			<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	....	1956	82	350	47	479
		1955	98	295	43	436
Re-vaccination	....	1956	2	67	3	72
		1955	1	63	6	70

Immunisation — Primary

			<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>School Clinic</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	....	1956	4	56	3	54	117
		1955	—	102	2	73	177
Whooping Cough	....	1956	—	1	1	—	2
		1955	3	26	1	—	30
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria		1956	209	478	65	—	752
		1955	248	437	27	—	712

Immunisation — Reinforcing Injections

Diphtheria	....	1956	13	86	1	261	361
		1955	17	75	2	318	412
Whooping Cough	....	1956	—	—	—	—	—
		1955	—	1	—	—	1
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria		1956	22	65	6	—	93
		1955	19	30	9	—	58

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

Early in the year the Ministry of Health introduced the scheme for the Vaccination of children against poliomyelitis; 2,718 children were registered in this Division, and during the year 303 children received two injections, and 17 one injection.

SECTION 27 — AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

The Ambulance Service has operated quite smoothly during the year, and it is interesting to note that although there was an increase of 1,066 in the number of patients conveyed to hospital, there was a reduction of 251 in the number of journeys made, and of 85 miles in the total mileage for the service during the year.

In June, 1956, an additional Clinic Ambulance XBM 258, was supplied to this Division, and this has resulted in a reduction of journeys being given to contractors, and is also responsible for the reductions in journeys and mileage mentioned above.

A new Bedford Ambulance XMB 268 was supplied in October, 1956, as a replacement for Commer Ambulance MTU 731 which is to be transferred to Civil Defence.

During the year one driver resigned to take up a similar appointment with the West Riding Ambulance Service, and a driver/mechanic was appointed to fill the vacancy on the establishment.

With the supply of an additional clinic ambulance, it was found that the establishment of personnel was insufficient to man all the vehicles during the peak period of the day, and the Committee made a strong recommendation to the County Health Committee for the establishment to be increased by one driver/attendant, to which they agreed.

One driver received a bar to his 5 years' driving medal, and 10 drivers one year safe driving diplomas for the National Safe Driving Competition, 1955, and 12 drivers passed their First Aid Examination during the year.

Details of Journeys carried out Direct by Ambulance Station

	<i>Morris FLG 492</i>	<i>Bedford PTU 296</i>	<i>Bedford XMB 268</i>	<i>Commer MTU 731</i>	<i>Bedford Clinics</i>			<i>Total for Stn.</i>
					<i>TLG 538</i>	<i>TMA 444</i>	<i>XMB 258</i>	
Emergencies	68	240	82	38	37	62	59	586
Maternity	11	207	43	7	14	12	28	322
Accidents	10	83	22	5	3	4	6	133
Ord. Removals	202	132	29	95	47	59	77	641
Sitting Cases	1382	395	57	1211	1730	1866	1174	7815
Infectious Diseases	6	4	1	16	9	10	4	50
Total Patients	1679	1061	234	1372	1840	2013	1348	9547
Total Journeys	540	781	185	514	732	819	480	4051
Mileage	15371	17616	4950	13523	24876	29631	17513	123480
Petrol: galls.	1451½	1252½	368½	1211	1067½	1271½	788½	7411
Oil: pints	148	160½	43½	147	197½	227	46½	970
Average M.P.G.	10.7	14.1	13.7	11.3	23.6	23.7	22.4	16.8

Details of Journeys Carried Out by Contractors

	<i>Total No. Journeys</i>	<i>No. of Patients</i>	<i>No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys</i>	<i>Total Mileage</i>
Ambulance	58	60	58	982
Cars	927	1558	2	23178

Details of all journeys made during the year as compared with the previous twelve months are as follows:

	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Emergencies</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Ambulance Journeys:				
1956	2078	4406	874	52442
1955	2344	3807	999	58082
Sitting Case Journeys:				
1956	2958	6759	227	95198
1955	2943	6292	194	89642
Total all Journeys:				
1956	5036	11165	1101	147640
1955	5287	10099	1193	147725
Increase:	—	1066	—	—
Decrease:	251	—	92	85

The majority of patients in the Division requiring transport attend hospitals in Chester, Liverpool and Warrington, and the average mileage per journey for the year was 29.3 compared with 27.9 for the previous year.

The arrangements between the County Council and the Warrington Corporation, whereby the latter supplied ambulances for the conveyance of non-infectious cases from Stockton Heath and the surrounding district, were continued during the year.

The alterations to the Ambulance Station were completed and the staff moved to their new quarters.

SECTION 28

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis

The Health Visitors were informed of all new cases and asked to visit and complete the environmental report sheet, and where the contacts of the patients had not attended the Chest Clinic for examination, they were advised to do so. Every effort has been made to persuade the contacts to attend for examination.

On receipt of the completed report sheets, these were carefully investigated by me, and where the housing conditions of the patients were such that it was advisable that they should be rehoused, the question was taken up with the Housing Departments of the Urban and Rural District Councils, and I am very pleased to report that both Councils again gave their sympathetic consideration to the rehousing of these cases, and in a large number of cases they were able to rehouse the families. Where the housing accommodation was adequate the patients were strongly advised to occupy separate bedrooms, and in all cases advice was given on the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. Advice was also given to patients on how to obtain extra nourishment and assistance.

In all cases, enquiries were made to see whether it was possible to find the cause of infection.

The chest physicians at the Runcorn and Warrington Chest Clinics tested the child contacts of cases, and during the year 15 B.C.G. Vaccinations were given in this connection.

When patients were admitted to Hospital, arrangements were made for a full disinfection of the premises to be carried out.

During the year a careful check was made with the Chest Physicians of all patients whose names appear on my Tuberculosis Register and after examination it was possible to remove the names of a few patients from such register.

Details of cases during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1956, are as follows:

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
(a) Total number of cases on register—					
1st January, 1956	158	119	23	22	322
31st December, 1956	169	127	21	25	342
(b) Removals from register, 1st January to 31st December, 1956—					
Died	6	1	—	—	7
Left district	1	5	1	—	7
Recovered	1	2	2	1	6
Lost sight of	—	—	1	—	1
	8	8	4	1	21
(c) Number of notifications received, 1st January to 31st December, 1956—					
New cases	13	8	2	3	26
Transfers	6	8	—	1	15
Restored to register	—	—	—	—	—
	19	16	2	4	41

B.C.G. Vaccination

During the year parents of children in the 13 years age group attending schools in the Division were given the opportunity of having them given B.C.G. Vaccination, and I am pleased to report that there was a very good response, approximately 80% agreeing to the vaccination of their children.

The following schools were visited during the period under review:

- Balfour Road Secondary Modern School, Runcorn.
- Holy Trinity C. of E. School, Runcorn.
- Parish C. of E. School, Runcorn.
- St. Edwards R.C. School, Runcorn.
- Halton C. of E. School.
- Helsby County Grammar Schools (Girls and Boys).
- Helsby Secondary Modern School.
- Frodsham Secondary Modern School.
- Kingsley Secondary Modern School.
- Stockton Heath Secondary Modern School.
- Stockton Lodge Private School, Stockton Heath
- Marlfield Private School, Grappenhall.
- Belmont College, Gt. Budworth.

Details of the number of forms issued, tests carried out and B.C.G. given during the year are as follows:

BEFORE VACCINATION				
No. of consent forms issued	....	....	....	829
No. of children for whom consent received	....	....	....	655
No. Mantoux tested	....	....	....	637
No. positive to Mantoux Test	....	....	....	194
No. vaccinated with B.C.G.	....	....	....	435
AFTER B.C.G. VACCINATION				
No. having follow-up Mantoux (8 weeks)	....	....	....	447
No. positive to follow-up Mantoux (8 weeks)	....	....	....	436
No. positive to follow-up Mantoux (12 months)	....	....	....	289
No. negative to follow-up Mantoux (12 months)	....	....	....	6

Arrangements were made with the No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit to visit schools in the Division to X-ray the children found to have a positive reaction to the Mantoux test. Mass X-ray was also extended to teachers and staff of the schools where a high Mantoux rate was found. No infectious lung cases were discovered.

Care of the Aged

The care and after-care of old people living on their own has continued to be a most difficult problem, but in conjunction with General Practitioners and Health Visitors, assistance has been given to have cases admitted to a suitable hospital or home for the aged, or where this has not been possible, the provision of a domestic help and a visit by the District Nurse.

Whenever there are relations and friends, contact is made with them, if required, so that they can be reminded of their responsibility in the care of the old people and more help could and should be given by relatives in many cases.

As previously mentioned, patients are encouraged to arrange for someone to live in whenever possible and practicable.

The "Over 60" Club in Runcorn and the "Darby and Joan" Club in Frodsham do very good work in the care of old people, and their work could, with advantage, be copied elsewhere in the Division. In addition, Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and Church Organisations take an interest in old people's welfare, working in conjunction with ward and parish councils.

The Central Council of Social Service, Warrington, has arranged for their voluntary assistants to visit old people living on their own in the Runcorn and Stockton Heath districts. They visit the old people at regular intervals and take books, periodicals, etc., and assist them in any way possible.

The volunteers visiting old people and/or disabled have carried out very good work with discretion.

Much valuable assistance has been given to the old people by these voluntary workers.

Loan of Nursing Equipment

Supplies of nursing equipment, apparatus, etc., are available for loan to patients from stocks supplied to district nurses, in accordance with the scale agreed to by the Cheshire County Council and my Committee. A reserve stock is also kept at my Divisional Office.

A patient borrowing equipment under the above heading is required to pay a deposit, which is refunded when the article is returned in good condition.

There has been a steady demand for this equipment during the year, and this service is much appreciated by those concerned.

Convalescent Home Treatment

The Committee has power to send persons in need of rest but not nursing care to convalescent homes. Only one application was received for such treatment during the year, and arrangements were made for two weeks' convalescent home treatment for the patient.

The patients are required to pay towards the cost of their stay in these homes, according to the scale laid down by the County Council. The full cost is usually beyond the means of most cases.

Handicapped Persons

A Register of Handicapped Persons is kept in my office and the patients are visited by the health visitors to ascertain what assistance can be given to these persons, working in conjunction with the various voluntary societies, etc.

Home Occupation

In a few cases where patients are suffering from prolonged disability, resultant upon injury or sickness, arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the chest physicians and/or the patient's medical practitioner, and the British Red Cross Society for the supply of materials and apparatus for home occupation.

The patients have found very great interest in the work and a new pleasure in life.

Some health visitors have given the greatest assistance to me in this important matter.

It is hoped to increase this service during 1957 for cases requiring occupational therapy in the home, via health visitors, etc., especially for tuberculous cases.

Health Education

This is best spread by personal contacts; the health visitors pay special attention to Health Education in their day-to-day work.

Copies of my pamphlet "Commonsense Preventive Measures Against Disease" have been widely distributed throughout the Division, and posters on health education matters have been forwarded to shops, etc., for display.

Pamphlets are also left at homes where there are cases of infectious disease, giving details of the precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of infection.

SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The number of domestic helps employed at 31st December, 1956, was 30.

The number of cases provided with domestic help during the year increased from 149 to 162, an increase of 13, mostly required for cases of illness. The total number of hours domestic helps were supplied to cases during the year was 26,570 compared with 24,830 in 1955, an increase of 1,740 hours.

The demand on this service continued to increase, especially for the aged persons group, and although there were only two more cases of aged persons supplied with help during the year, the number of hours help was supplied to this group increased considerably.

In a number of cases it was necessary to increase the amount of help supplied to old people, owing to a deterioration in their health, and until such time as accommodation could be found for them in a suitable hospital or home. The demand on the Hospital Authorities and the County Welfare Department for accommodation for old people continues to increase, and this service is of considerable assistance in helping to care for them until such time as suitable accommodation can be found.

Most old people do not wish to enter hospital or homes for the aged, but to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and every effort is made, with the aid of this service and additional help from relatives and neighbours, visits by members of voluntary societies and, when necessary, visits by the District Nurse, to make this possible.

With the aid of the Domestic Help Service it has certainly been possible to look after quite a large number of patients, who, without this help, would have had to be admitted to a hospital or Home.

The following table shows the types of cases supplied with help during 1955 and 1956:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Confinement Cases</i>	<i>Tuberculosis Cases</i>	<i>Aged Persons</i>	<i>Cases of Other Illness</i>
1956	22	5	106	29
1955	20	6	104	19

All applications for the services of domestic help were carefully investigated, and only where help was absolutely necessary was this supplied.

At the 31st December, 1956, there were 71 protracted cases remaining on the register, a decrease of 7 on the 1955 total.

The service is not free to patients but subject to the County Council Scale of Assessment.

Where any hardship is claimed after the assessment, the case is referred to the Divisional Health Committee for their decision in the matter. During the year 3 cases were submitted to the Committee for consideration, and reductions made in all cases.

